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BOROUGH OF BEXHILL



Annual Report
of the
Medical Officer of Health
for the year 1958

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BOROUGH OF BEXHILL

HEALTH COMMITTEE

Chairman:

COUNCILLOR MRS. J. O. ALEXANDER

Vice-Chairman:

MR. COUNCILLOR H. G. MORGAN

HIS WORSHIP THE MAYOR
(MR. COUNCILLOR J. BAKER, J.P.)
MR. ALDERMAN R. F. BOTTING
„ G. H. GOODWIN
MR. COUNCILLOR E. H. CORKE
„ W. G. SANSOM
„ A. H. STONE
COUNCILLOR MRS. M. E. ACKLAND
„ MRS. E. E. J. MYERS

STAFF

Medical Officer of Health:

Area School Medical Officer and Assistant County Medical Officer of Health, East Sussex County Council:

R. J. Toleman, M.B.E. (Mil.), M.B., B.S.(Lond.), D.P.H.(Eng.)

Chief Public Health Inspector:

W. H. Ball, Cert.S.I.B., M.A.P.H.I.

Certified Inspector of Meat and other Foods.

Public Health Inspectors:

C. E. Lockley, Cert.S.I.B.

Certified Inspector of Meat and other Foods.

S. Wild, Cert.S.I.B., M.A.P.H.I.

Certified Inspector of Meat and other Foods.

Disinfecting Officer and General Assistant:

G. Chalmers.

Rodent Operator:

D. Evenden (transferred to Highways and Works Department, 18.11.59).

Clerks:

K. F. Westwood.

H. J. Stentiford (transferred to Borough Treasurer's Department, 1.10.59).

Miss N. W. McEvoy.

Maternity and Child Welfare:

Bexhill Nursing Association and East Sussex County Council:

M. and C.W. Clinic:

London Road Clinic, Bexhill: L. M. Rhodes-Clooney, M.B.,
B.S., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.

Weighing Centre:

Little Common Community Centre.

Ante-Natal Clinics:

London Road Clinic, Bexhill: R. K. Reid, M.A., M.B., B.Chir.,
M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.

E. W. Graham, M.B., B.S.

and at individual surgeries of the General Practitioners in
Bexhill.

Health Visitors and District Nurses:

Bexhill Nursing Association and East Sussex County Council:

*Present Staff:**Full-time Health Visitors:*

Miss L. W. Parks, S.R.N., S.C.M., Q.N., H.V.

Miss B. I. Justice, S.R.N., S.C.M., Q.N., H.V.

Miss A. N. Knapp, S.R.N., S.C.M., Q.N., H.V.

Nurse-Midwives:

Miss E. S. Wright, S.R.N., S.C.M., Q.N., H.V.

Miss D. M. Jull, S.R.N., S.C.M., Q.N., H.V. (appointed
1.11.58)

Miss M. Richardson, S.R.N., S.C.M., Q.N. (appointed
1.2.58)

General Nurses:

Miss A. S. Odell, S.R.N., Q.N., Relief Nurse for District

Mr. A. B. Kurn, S.R.N., Q.N.

Mr. C. G. Martin, S.R.N., Q.N.

Miss R. E. Topham, S.R.N., S.C.M., Q.N., H.V. (tem-
porary appointment, 24.4.59)

Miss B. M. Wickens, S.R.N. (part-time Relief Nurse)

Health Visitors and Nurse/Midwives:

Mrs. I. N. L. Martin, S.R.N., S.C.M., Q.N. (resigned,
March, 1959)

Tuberculosis:

East Sussex County Council:

A. W. Anderson, M.D.(Lond.), Chest Physician

Venereal Diseases:

W. McAleenan, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.

TO THE MAYOR, ALDERMEN AND COUNCILLORS OF THE BOROUGH OF BEXHILL

MR. MAYOR, ALDERMEN AND COUNCILLORS,

I have the honour to submit the Annual Report for the year 1958, which is arranged in accordance with the instructions contained in the Ministry of Health Circular 22/58, dated 9th December, 1958.

Staff

During the year most of the recommendations of the Organisation and Methods Report of 1957, were implemented as follows:—

1. The Assistant Clerk was transferred to the Valuation Department, where there was a vacancy.
2. The Shorthand Typist assumed the duties of the Assistant Clerk.
3. The Rodent Operator was transferred to the Highways Department, and this duty was then carried out jointly by the Health Inspectors and the General Assistant.

General Standard of Health

This, as usual, was very good, there being no major epidemics during the year apart from measles, which showed a marked increase, particularly in the Sidley Ward, during the months of October, November and December. This epidemic continued into 1959, throughout the Borough, in common with the whole of England and Wales.

The year was conspicuous for heavy rainfall and lack of sunshine. June being the wettest on record locally (see report of Mr. H. J. Sargent, Borough Meteorologist), and there was no period in the year when the weather could be described as warm. Prolonged periods of wet weather together with little or no sunshine lowers resistance, especially to the common cold, bronchitis, etc., which were very prevalent during the late autumn and winter.

Vital Statistics

INFANTILE MORTALITY

Three infant deaths under the age of 1 year were registered as against two in 1957. The causes were Atelectasis (congenital lung collapse) in two cases which lived 4 hours and 2 days respectively. The other death was due to Streptococcal Meningitis in a child 4 weeks old (a non-notifiable condition).

The Infant Death Rate per 1,000 live births was 10.2 (England and Wales 22.6), and this is the most sensitive index of the State of the Public Health in any community.

BIRTH AND DEATH RATES

The births showed a welcome increase from 230 to 294, the rate increasing from 8.73 to 11.0 per thousand of the population. Adjusted for age and sex distribution of the population the rate was 14.3 (1957, 11.26).

POPULATION

There was again a slight increase from 26,340 to 26,490.

DEATHS

Table 4 tabulates the deaths by age groups; 85 % of deaths in males occurred over the age of 65 years, while the figure for females was 83 %. The average age of death was:—

Males .. 72.5 years (expectation of life, England and Wales:
Males 67.85).

Females .. 76.3 years (expectation of life, England and Wales:
Females 73.53).

CAUSES OF DEATH

The major causes were again (i) heart and circulatory disease 313 as against 280 in 1957, including a sharp rise due to coronary artery disease (thrombosis and angina) from 59 to 78. (ii) Cancer deaths increased from 94 to 109, although there was no apparent increase in deaths due to lung cancer (18 in 1958, as against 17 in 1957).

There were four deaths from motor accidents and nine from other accident causes, e.g.:—

Drowning	0
Home accidents	6
Others	3

Infectious Disease

It is again very pleasing to state there were no cases of diphtheria during the year, which once more testifies to the value of diphtheria immunisation in infancy and childhood (for figures see Section F).

Measles cases numbered 156 as against 71. Most of the cases occurred during October, November, December, and were generally mild in nature. There were no deaths, but two cases were admitted to hospital.

Fifteen cases of whooping cough were notified during the year as against 25 in 1957, and 71 in 1956, which also indicates the value of pertussis immunisation in infancy.

No cases of food poisoning were notified, and other cases call for no comment.

Acute Poliomyelitis

No cases occurred during the year, which is probably attributable to the increased numbers of children and young adults being vaccinated. It will necessitate two or three years' statistics to correctly assess the value of poliomyelitis vaccination in stamping out this dread disease, but so far the figures are most encouraging.

Dysentery

No cases of Sonne dysentery were notified during 1957.

Sanitary Circumstances

Full details of the work of the Public Health Inspectors regarding their activity in the field of environmental hygiene will be found in the Chief Public Health Inspector's section of the Report, and it is a pleasure to record these, while they indicate to the public the variety of work involved and the constant supervising of shops, hotels, cafes, dairies, caravan camp sites, and others too numerous to mention here.

Table 18 is sufficient index of the scope and nature of the many varied and important duties performed during the year as an essential part of the Preventive Health Services.

Mass Radiography

The East Sussex Unit will be visiting Bexhill in the autumn of 1959.

National Assistance Act, 1958, Section 47 as amended by the National Assistance (Amendment) Act, 1951

One case was removed to St. Helen's Hospital, on a Magistrate's Order, following a certificate from the family doctor, and the Medical Officer of Health.

National Health Service Act, 1946

The Medical Officer of Health continued to administer the vaccination, immunisation and ambulance services on behalf of the County Medical Officer of Health during 1958.

Welfare of the Elderly

(i) CHIROPODY

This service originated by the Bexhill Council of Social Service, is now in its fifth year. The numbers under treatment have steadily increased and during the year were 180 as against 120 in 1957. The extension of this service as part of the National Health Service Act, has received the blessing of the Ministry of Health, and in due time the Local Health Authority (in our case the East Sussex County Council) will extend the scheme already in being as an efficiently run voluntary service.

(ii) ACCIDENTS IN THE HOME

Each successive year indicates that there are more deaths in the home due to accidents (mainly among children and old people) than there are on the road: viz. 8,000 to 7,000; 5,000 of them due to falls, while in addition there are 70,000 hospital admissions annually, with resultant crippling, disfigurement, deformities, and much chronic ill health.

The improvement of lighting on staircases and landings, the avoidance of slippery floors, loose carpets and mats, the provision of low beds for the old folk, attention to electricity faults and switches, gas taps and connections, supervision in the kitchen and bathroom, where scalding fluids are to be expected, are but first principles that need constant reiteration and repetition to maintain the public aware-

ness of these constant dangers, and the results of carelessness and neglect where children and old people are concerned. That familiarity breeds contempt is so true, it must be obvious to all that the lessons of Home Safety can only be brought home by constant alertness on the part of the general public.

(iii) FRIENDS OF THE ELDERLY

The function of the above body is to integrate all activities for the welfare of the elderly in the community with emphasis on the great need for a social centre, open all day, where they can meet and have a good meal, enjoying friendships. In due time, perhaps laundry facilities may be made available: 1959 should see much progress to this end under the Chairmanship of the Mayor, whose drive and leadership will eventually see the goal achieved.

Food Poisoning

There were no cases of food poisoning notified during the year, which indicates that the Food Hygiene Regulations are being largely complied with. See later in the Report for action under these regulations to secure a high standard of hygiene in all phases of food preparation and storage.

Fouling of the Sea with Sewage

Evidence, so far available, has failed to prove that sewage in the sea and on the beaches is dangerous to health. No case of infectious disease in Bexhill has yet been traced to sea bathing. The nuisance is an aesthetic one, but investigations appear to indicate that solid faecal matter on Bexhill beaches and the adjacent sea are due to circumstances outside the Borough, and this is being carefully watched. It is hoped that the Report of the Public Health Laboratory Service, which is investigating the problem, will be available in 1959.

Flooding in Bexhill

The severe gales accompanied by heavy rains in Bexhill during the autumn and early winter months caused much flooding, principally in the central area and those adjacent to Egerton Park and Buxton Drive. Preliminary measures recommended by the Health Committee include a detailed survey of the drainage of the actual areas, with a surface water sewer in Park Road to mitigate the flooding of adjacent basements. The public should, of course, realise that no system of sewers ever devised and constructed will prevent flooding where one inch of rain per hour is encountered. An inch of rain translated into terms everyone can understand, means 100 tons of water per acre, which has to flow eventually to the sea, and while the problem can be to some extent alleviated, it cannot be completely solved when intense rainfalls occur during short periods of time.

Public Conveniences

Towards the end of 1958 building of the new convenience at Glyne Gap (jointly with Hastings Corporation) began, and its opening was envisaged at Whitsun, 1959. In addition, early in 1959, work would begin on conversion of part of the air-raid shelter near the Downs Arch into a new convenience, long needed at that site. The demolition of the urinal there was long overdue. Ultimately it is hoped that there will be one for the Old Town, and that those at the Colonnade, unsatisfactory and inadequate as they are, would be replaced by others of the requisite high standard.

Other major Public Health issues before us at present are:—

(i) LITTER

This at times becomes indeed a major problem and, although strictly not a danger to public health, reflects no credit in the present-day habits of the travelling public, particularly those who visit the town for the day and leave evidence of their stay everywhere around. This is, of course, a national problem and it is hoped that the Litter Act recently passed by Parliament will in time solve the problem, although eternal vigilance on the part of everyone is called for.

Fouling of the lawns and pavements by dogs is a closely allied nuisance, and again the punishment of a few offenders would have a salutary effect.

(ii) NOISE

It is unanimously agreed that noise is conducive of ill health caused by loss of sleep and general turmoil. Some of the causes are jet planes, noisy motor-cycles and scooters on the roads, blaring wireless and television sets in the home, loud-speaker vans in the street, which incidentally few people can understand, etc.

The formation of the Noise Abatement Society is a step in the right direction, and I take this opportunity of quoting the Honorary Secretary, who stated, in a recent Press letter, that noise is the arch enemy of peace and quiet, health and happiness, and must be eliminated.

Committees

The Committees responsible for health matters in Bexhill are, with their duties:—

I. HEALTH COMMITTEE

- (a) Public Health and Sanitation.
- (b) Slaughterhouse, the Food and Drugs Act, 1955, and regulations made thereunder, Shops Acts and factories and workshops.
- (c) Moveable dwellings.
- (d) The Mortuary.
- (e) Breaches of Bye-laws or Statutes as to matters dealt with by them.

- (f) The service of Notices (other than Preliminary Notices), and, if necessary, the institution of legal proceedings.
- (g) Reconstruction of drains.
- (h) Pollution of streams and watercourses.
- (i) To exercise and carry out the powers and duties of the Council in all matters of urgency relating to the suppression of nuisances and preservation of public health.
- (j) Sewerage and drainage.
- (k) The collection and disposal of house and trade refuse.
- (l) Diseases of Animals Acts.
- (m) Destructive Insects and Pests Acts.
- (n) Riding Establishments Act, 1939.

2. ESTATES AND PARKS COMMITTEE

- (a) The care, control, and management of the Swimming Bath.
- (b) The care, control, and management of Cemeteries.

3. WATER COMMITTEE

- (a) The supply of water and management and control of the water undertaking of the Council.

In conclusion, I place on record my warmest thanks to all members of the Public Health Staff for their continued efficiency and industry, and in particular to Mr. W. H. Ball, Chief Public Health Inspector, and Mr. K. Westwood, the Chief Clerk. The latter has been most helpful in the completion of the statistical side of this Report.

To the Chairman and members of the Health Committee, I offer my thanks for their continued interest and support, and to all the Chief Officers also for ready help and assistance, particularly to the Town Clerk, Mr. Edward Smith, for his wise guidance and patience at all times.

At this time the absence of Mr. W. H. Ball, Chief Public Health Inspector, on account of his illness, is greatly regretted, but I am very much indebted to Mr. C. E. Lockley, second Public Health Inspector, for his contribution to the Report and for dealing with the section on environmental hygiene.

R. J. TOLEMAN,

Medical Officer of Health.

1959.

Public Health Department,
Town Hall,
Bexhill, Sussex.
(Tel.: Bexhill 936.)

SECTION A

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA

Area	8,015 acres
Population	26,490
Number of separate dwelling assessments	9,473
Rateable Value at 1-4-58	£543,346
General Rate levied 1958-59	20s. in the £
Product of Penny Rate 1958-59	£2,253 9s. 10d.

METEOROLOGY

I am indebted to Mr. H. J. Sargent, the Borough Meteorologist, for the following report for 1958:—

Meteorological observations were carried on throughout the year 1958. Detailed monthly and other reports were transmitted to the Meteorological Office, Air Ministry, and information was supplied to the Press, to the publishers of year-books, to insurance companies, to local municipal departments, and to numerous inquirers. The station was inspected by a representative of the Meteorological Office and the various instruments tested with official standards.

The total precipitation for the year 1958 was 36.29 ins., 7.50 ins. above the normal. March, April and November were dry months; October's fall was about normal; every other month had excessive rain. June, with a fall of nearly 4 ins., was distinguished as the wettest June on local record, and August was notably wet, its fall of 4.82 ins. being 2.52 ins. above normal. A welcome dry spell occurred late in the year—25 consecutive days with one almost negligible fall—from 13th November until 7th December. This period, however, was marked by considerable mist and occasional fog.

With a meagre sunshine duration of 1,463 hrs., 1958 was the duller year on local record. August—the wettest month—was notably deficient in sunshine, its total allowance, 120 hrs., being 100 hrs. less than the average.

There were no prolonged spells of hot weather during the summer, and seasonably warm days were relatively few. The maximum temperature for the year, 77°, occurred on 5th September. A severe wintry spell was experienced towards the end of January; on one occasion the minimum night temperature fell to 11° with 22° of ground frost. Snow 4 or 5 ins. deep covered the ground for four days. Near the end of February, Bexhill shared in a blizzard which caused widespread havoc and distress throughout the country. There were several falls of snow, and the fresh N.E. winds caused drifting with much inconvenience in matters of transport. March was a cold month with a prevalence of keen easterly winds; the mean temperature, 40.4°, was 2.3° below the normal. The first half of April was notably cold; there were several falls of snow and frequent ground frosts.

The full records of daily observations of air-pressure, temperatures, humidity, sunshine, precipitation, clouds, visibility, and wind, with notes on the general weather conditions throughout the year, are available for reference.

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS FOR THE YEAR

					Males	Females	Total
Live Births : Legitimate	...	...	...	...	142	135	277
Illegitimate	...	...	...	...	9	8	17
Rate per 1,000 estimated resident population	...	...	...	...	—	—	11.09
(Comparability Factor 1.29) Adjusted Birth Rate	...	...	...	...	—	—	14.3
Stillbirths : Legitimate	...	...	...	...	2	4	6
Illegitimate	...	...	...	...	1	—	1
Rate per 1,000 population	...	...	...	...	—	—	.26
Deaths	...	...	...	...	235	304	539
Death rate per 1,000 estimated resident population	...	...	...	...	—	—	20.34
(Comparability Factor 0.59) Adjusted Death Rate	...	...	...	...	—	—	11.9
Deaths from puerperal causes	...	...	...	...	—	—	—
Deaths of Infants under one year of age :							
Legitimate	...	...	...	...	2	1	3
Illegitimate	...	...	...	...	—	—	—
Death rate of Infants under one year of age :	...	...	...	...	—	—	10.2
Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	...	...	...	...	47	62	109
Deaths from Measles (all ages)	...	...	...	...	—	—	—
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages)	...	...	...	...	—	—	—
Deaths from Diarrhoea	...	...	...	...	—	—	—
Deaths from Scarlet Fever (all ages)	...	...	...	...	—	—	—

TABLE 1
CAUSES OF DEATH

All Causes						Male 203	Female 262
1.	Tuberculosis respiratory	..	..	..	..	1	1
2.	Tuberculosis, other	..	..	..	..	—	—
3.	Syphilitic Disease	.	..	..	..	1	1
4.	Diphtheria	..	..	..	..	—	—
5.	Whooping Cough	..	..	..	..	—	—
6.	Meningococcal infections	..	..	..	..	—	—
7.	Acute Poliomyelitis	..	..	..	..	—	—
8.	Measles	..	..	..	..	—	—
9.	Other infective and parasitic diseases	..	..	..	..	1	—
10.	Malignant neoplasm, Stomach	..	..	..	..	4	8
11.	Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	..	..	..	..	15	3
12.	Malignant neoplasm, breast	..	..	..	..	—	12
13.	Malignant neoplasm, uterus	..	..	..	..	—	3
14.	Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	..	..	..	..	28	36
15.	Leukaemia, Aleukaemia	..	..	..	..	1	—
16.	Diabetes	..	..	..	..	—	2
17.	Vascular Lesions of nervous system	..	..	..	..	27	74
18.	Coronary disease, angina	..	..	..	..	49	29
19.	Hypertension with heart disease	..	..	..	..	4	10
20.	Other heart disease	..	..	..	..	40	62
21.	Other circulatory disease	..	..	..	..	5	13
22.	Influenza	..	..	..	..	—	—
23.	Pneumonia	..	..	..	..	12	7
24.	Bronchitis	..	..	..	..	11	8
25.	Other diseases of respiratory system	..	..	..	..	6	3
26.	Ulcer of Stomach and Duodenum	..	..	..	..	2	2
27.	Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	..	..	..	..	1	1
28.	Nephritis and nephrosis	..	..	..	..	—	1
29.	Hyperplasia of prostate	..	..	..	..	3	—
30.	Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	..	..	..	..	—	—
31.	Congenital malformations	..	..	..	..	3	2
32.	Other defined and ill-defined diseases	..	..	..	..	13	15
33.	Motor vehicle accidents	..	..	..	..	3	1
34.	All other accidents	..	..	..	..	5	4
35.	Suicide	..	..	..	..	—	2
36.	Homicide and operations of war	..	..	..	..	—	—

TABLE 2
INFANTILE DEATHS, 1958. TABLE SHOWING CAUSES AND AGES AT DEATH

Cause	Age in Weeks				Total under 1 Month	Age in Months					Total
	-1	-2	-3	-4		1+	2+	3+	6+	9-12	
Atelectasis	2	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	2
Meningitis	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1

TABLE 3
INFANTILE DEATHS SHOWN BY CAUSES OF DEATH AND WARD DISTRIBUTION

Ward	Atelectasis	Meningitis
Central	1	—
Old Town	1	—
Sidley	—	1
Total	2	1

TABLE 4
AGE AT DEATH—ALL CASES, 1958

	Under 1 Year	1	2	3	4	5-10	11-15	16-20	21-25	26-35	36-45	46-55	56-65	66-75	76-80	Over 80	Total
Males	2	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	1	3	13	35	65	47	67	235
Females	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	2	4	10	33	64	66	122	304

TABLE 5
INFECTIOUS DISEASES NOTIFIED DURING 1958 SHOWN BY WARDS

Disease	Ward						Total
	Central	Egerton Park	Old Town	Sackville	St. Mark's	Sidley	
Diphtheria ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Whooping Cough	—	5	1	5	—	4	15
Measles ..	12	2	20	5	5	112	156
Scarlet Fever ..	—	—	—	1	—	3	4
Pneumonia ..	1	2	—	2	3	1	9
Ac. Poliomyelitis	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Erysipelas ..	—	—	1	—	—	—	1
Puerperal Pyrexia	—	—	—	—	—	2	2
Meningitis ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Dysentery ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Typhoid Fever	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Totals ..	13	9	22	13	8	122	187
Tuberculosis Notifications	—	—	—	—	—	—	13

SECTION B

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA

Laboratory Facilities

Bacteriological and pathological examinations continued to be carried out by the Public Health Laboratory Service at their Brighton laboratory, under Dr. J. E. Jameson, Director.

Ambulance Facilities

While the Ambulances themselves are the property of the Local Health Authority, the Service itself is staffed and run by the St. John Ambulance Brigade, Bexhill Division, and continues to function efficiently and satisfactorily by the personnel concerned.

TABLE 6
CALLS, 1958—Three Ambulances

	Patients Carried		Total	No. of Journeys	Total Mileage
	Accident or Emergency	Others, including Invalid, Infectious			
January	13	204	217	181	2,141
February	17	161	178	160	1,723
March	15	194	209	188	2,334
April	18	263	281	262	2,293
May	16	225	241	211	1,842
June	11	234	245	220	2,329
July	30	302	332	299	2,793
August	19	300	319	294	2,869
September	7	295	302	271	2,140
October	7	259	266	225	1,931
November	14	241	255	236	2,289
December	7	308	315	282	2,760

Nursing in the Home

During 1958 the following number of cases were attended by the District Nurses and Health Visitors :

Maternity and Midwifery	..	..	135
General cases	..	..	492

The visits paid were :

Maternity and Midwifery	..	..	2,845
General Nursing (Including Casual)	..	..	15,905
Health Visits	..	..	6,887
Ante- and Post-Natal	..	..	1,299
Clinic Sessions attended	..	..	684
Mothercraft Classes and Examinations	..	..	48
T.B. Visits	..	..	124

Treatment Centres and Clinics.

Minor Ailments Clinic for School Children,
London Road Clinic, Bexhill : Monday to Friday
at 9 a.m.

Dental Clinic for School Children,
London Road Clinic, Bexhill : By appointment

Infant Welfare Clinic,
London Road Clinic, Bexhill : Every Thursday, 2 p.m.

Toddlers' Clinic : 2nd Friday in month,
London Road Clinic, Bexhill : morning—by appointment

Ante-Natal Clinic,
London Road Clinic, Bexhill : 1st Fridays, 3rd Wednesdays, 3 p.m.

Mothercraft and Relaxation Classes,
London Road Clinic, Bexhill : Tuesday afternoons, 3 p.m.

Dental Clinic for Mothers and Pre-School Children
London Road Clinic, Bexhill : By appointment

Diphtheria Immunisation Clinic,
London Road Clinic, Bexhill : Mondays, as required, 2.30 p.m.

Vaccination Clinic : Second Wednesday in
London Road Clinic, Bexhill : Month at 2.30 p.m.

Chest Clinic,
Bexhill Hospital : Every Tuesday, 2 p.m.

Venereal Disease Clinic,
Royal East Sussex Hospital, Hastings : Fridays, 4.30 p.m.-6 p.m.

TABLE 7

Attendances at the Maternity and Child Welfare, Ante-Natal, and Dental Clinics

Maternity and Child Welfare Clinic:

(1) Number of children who first attended the Centre during the year and who at their first attendance were under 1 year of age	164
(2) Number of children who attended the Centre during the year and who were born in:	
1958	141
1957	108
1956-53	43
Total Children	292
(3) Number of attendances during the year made by children who at the date of attendance were:	
(i) Under 1 year of age	1,511
(ii) Over 1 but under 2 years of age	203
(iii) Over 2 but under 5 years of age	93
Total attendances	1,807
Percentage of registered live births represented by the number in (1)	55.8

Ante-Natal Clinic:

Number of expectant mothers attending	36
Number of attendances by infants	88

Dental Clinic:

Number of attendances by Mothers	53
Number of attendances by Infants	28

Health Visitors

The following statement shows the visits paid by the Health Visitors during the year:

To expectant mothers:

First visits	77
Total visits	154

To infants under 1 year:

First visits	274
Total visits	2,323

To children aged 1 to 5 years 2,331

Maternity and Nursing Homes

The East Sussex County Council is the local supervising Authority under Part VI of the Public Health Act, 1936.

The following particulars with reference to the Homes in Bexhill have been supplied by the County Medical Officer of Health:

Total number of homes registered in the Borough on the 31st	
December 1958	8
Number of applications for registration during 1958 ..	—
Homes registered during the year	—
Orders made refusing or cancelling registration ..	—
Nursing Homes closed down during the year by owners ..	—

SECTION C

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES IN THE AREA

1. Water Supply

Under the Bexhill Corporation Act, 1925, the control of the water supply is vested in the Bexhill Corporation.

(a) The Statutory area includes the Borough of Bexhill and seven rural parishes, the water being obtained from three pumping stations and is fed throughout the whole area through 118 miles of mains, and the water supply has been satisfactory both with regard to quality and quantity.

(b) Bacteriological examinations of the raw water and subsequent treatment at the various pumping stations are carried out.

During 1958, a sample was submitted each month for bacteriological and/or chemical examinations of the water supplied to the consumers and in all cases the standard was that required of a public supply.

(c) The water of the Bexhill Area is not liable to plumbo-solvent action.

(d) There are within the Borough 9,775 dwelling-houses and flats supplied direct from the public water mains, and in addition there are 201 houses covered by standpipe supplies and 623 metered trade supplies.

In the statutory area outside the Borough there are 1,090 dwelling-houses and flats directly connected with the public mains, and in addition there are 371 metered supplies.

The average quantity of water used daily during 1958 in the statutory area was 1,395,000 gallons, which represents a decrease of 37,000 gallons per day as compared with 1957.

WATER ANALYSIS

Copy of Report on Sample of Water taken on 15th October, 1958

High Level

Chemical Results in Parts per Million

Appearance	..	..	..	..	Very faint opalescence with a few particles
Colour	..	..	..	..	7
pH	..	..	..	..	7.8
Electric conductivity	..	..	..	..	410
Chlorine present as chloride	..	..	..	..	39
Hardness—Total	..	..	..	..	150
Carbonate	..	..	..	..	120
Non-carbonate	..	..	..	..	30
Nitrate nitrogen	..	..	..	..	0.9
Ammoniacal nitrogen	..	..	..	..	0.000
Albuminoid nitrogen	..	..	..	..	0.069
Metals—Iron	..	..	..	..	0.14
Copper	..	..	..	..	0.07
Zinc and lead	..	..	..	..	Absent
Turbidity	..	..	..	..	Less than 3
Odour	..	..	..	..	Nil
Free carbon dioxide	..	..	..	..	4
Dissolved solids dried at 180°C.	..	..	..	..	275
Alkalinity as calcium carbonate	..	..	..	..	120
Nitrite nitrogen	..	..	..	..	Absent
Oxygen absorbed	..	..	..	..	1.0
Residual chlorine	..	..	..	..	Absent

Bacteriological Results

Number of Colonies developing on Agar:

1 day at 37°C.	..	..	..	..	— per ml.
2 days at 37°C.	..	..	..	..	— per ml.
3 days at 20°-22°C.	..	..	..	..	— per ml.

Presumptive Coliform reaction	Present in — ml.
	Absent from — ml.
	Probable number 0 per 100 ml.
Bact. Coli (Type 1)	.. .. Present in — ml.
	Absent from — ml.
	Probable number 0 per 100 ml.
Cl. welchii reaction	.. .. Present in — ml.
	Absent from — ml.

Report

This sample is reasonably clear and bright in appearance, on the alkaline side of neutrality and free from metals apart from minute traces of iron and copper. The water is moderately hard in character and it contains no excess of mineral constituents in solution. It is free from noticeable colour and of very satisfactory organic quality.

From the aspect of the chemical analysis these results are indicative of a pure and wholesome water suitable for drinking and domestic purposes.

2. Drainage and Sewerage

During 1958, 27 properties previously draining to cesspools in the Pebsham area were connected to the main sewer constructed by the Council.

Works started on enlarging York Road pumping station to cater for the development in the Pebsham area.

The surface water scheme for providing separate surface water facilities to the area between Broadoak Lane and Veness Gap has been successfully completed, as has the Down Road relief sewer.

Sewer cleansing and dragging were carried out as part of the sewer maintenance programme and sewer blockages and subsidences were rectified.

Work to stabilise the main sea outfall continued through the summer months although progress was hampered by the abnormally bad weather conditions.

3. Rivers and Streams

Cleansing has been carried out of ditches and streams that are the Council's liability. Private landowners can contribute materially to the relief of flooding during storm times if they ensure that old watercourses on their land are not destroyed and that all watercourses are kept free from obstruction.

4. Public Cleansing

The removal and disposal of house refuse, carried out by the Borough Surveyor's Department, has proceeded satisfactorily and weekly collections (with twice-weekly and special collections from hotels and schools, where necessary) has been maintained, except in certain outlying parts of the Borough.

Controlled tipping has been carried out on the Hastings County Borough tip satisfactorily.

The demand for waste paper salvage, particularly newspaper, continued to decrease.

5. Sanitary Inspection of the Area

During 1958, 7,886 visits were paid by the Public Health Inspectors. The nature of the inspections, together with the list of notices served and the results of such notices are included in the Report of the Chief Public Health Inspector, which appears at the end of this Report.

6. Factories, Workshops and Workplaces

During the year 176 visits were paid to factories, workshops and workplaces. Twelve notices were served during the year, of which 11 were complied with at the end of the year.

7. Moveable Dwellings

There are 15 licensed sites, giving accommodation for 259 caravans and 100 tents in the area.

Routine inspection of fairs and circuses have been carried out and the usual high standard was found.

Youth Organisations again visited the area for camping holidays.

The arrangements at the various sites were kept under observation.

8. Smoke Abatement

Premises were kept under observation from time to time—51 visits were made.

The principal industries are gas works, brick works and dry-cleaning works. Railway operations also come within the sphere of activity.

9. Swimming Baths and Pools

This important aspect of Public Health was undertaken during the bathing season and 12 samples were taken of bath water and submitted for analysis. All of which were satisfactory.

10. Eradication of Vermin

A total of 11 complaints was received in respect of premises infested with fleas—11 private premises were disinfested.

In connection with re-housing in Council Houses, 113 visits were paid. Furniture and effects were inspected prior to re-housing.

11. Offensive Trades

There are two premises in the area which come within the definition of offensive trades, i.e. two rag and bone dealers. One visit was made during the year.

12. Fish Frying Premises

There are three premises in the Borough where this trade is carried on. Twenty-seven visits were made during the year.

13. Pig-Keeping, Poultry-Keeping and Rabbit-Keeping

The Officers of the Department have supervised premises where pig-keeping, poultry-keeping and rabbit-keeping are pursued, and in this connection 6 visits were paid to premises for poultry and rabbit-keeping and 23 visits for pig-keeping.

14. Shops Acts

SHOPS ACT, 1950

EMPLOYMENT OF YOUNG PERSONS ACT, 1920

Under the Shops Act, 1950, 411 visits were made to shops during the year in relation to lighting, heating and ventilation and general sanitation.

It was not found necessary to serve any notices.

FACTORIES ACTS, 1937 and 1948

1.—INSPECTIONS for purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by Public Health Inspectors)

Premises (1)	Number on Register (3)	Number of		
		Inspections (4)	Written notices (5)	Occupiers prosecuted (6)
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	18	55	2	—
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	98	108	4	—
(iii) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority † (excluding out-workers' premises).	5	10	5	—
TOTAL	121	173	11	—

† *i.e.* Electrical Stations [Section 103(1)], Institutions. (Section 104 and sites of Building Operations and Works of Engineering Construction (Sections 107 and 108).

FACTORIES ACT, 1937
2.—CASES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE FOUND

Particulars (1)	Number of cases in which defects were found			Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted (7)
	Found (3)	Remedied (4)	Referred To H.M. Inspector (5) By H.M. Inspector (6)	
Want of cleanliness (S.1)	—	—	—	—
Overcrowding (S.2)	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable temperature (S.3)	—	—	—	—
Inadequate ventilation (S.4)	—	—	—	—
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)	—	—	—	—
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7)				
(a) insufficient	6	7	—	—
(b) Unsuitable or defective	4	7	—	—
(c) Not separate for sexes	—	—	—	—
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outwork)	1	—	—	—
TOTAL	11	14*	—	—

* Includes defects remedied on Notices served in 1957.

OUTWORK (Sections 110 and 111)

Nature of Work (1)	Section 110				Section 111	
	No. of out-workers in August list required by Sect. 110 (1) (c) (3)	No. of cases of default in sending lists to the Council (4)	No. of prosecutions for failure to supply lists (5)	No. of instances of work in unwholesome premises (6)	Notices served (7)	Prosecutions (8)
<p>Wearing apparel { Making, etc.</p> <p>Cleaning and washing Household linen</p> <p>Lace, lace curtains and nets</p> <p>Curtains and furniture hangings</p> <p>Furniture and upholstery</p> <p>Electro-plate</p> <p>File making</p> <p>Brass and brass articles</p> <p>Fur pulling</p> <p>Iron and steel cables and chains</p> <p>Iron and steel anchors and grapnels</p> <p>Cart gear</p> <p>Locks, latches and keys</p> <p>Umbrellas, etc.</p> <p>Artificial flowers</p> <p>Nets, other than wire nets</p>	<p>5</p> <p>NIL</p>	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL

OUTWORK—continued
(Sections 110 and 111)

Nature of Work (1)	Section 110			Section 111		
	No. of out-workers in August list required by Sect. 110 (1) (c) (3)	No. of cases of default in sending lists to the Council (4)	No. of prosecutions for failure to supply lists (5)	No. of instances of work in unwholesome premises (6)	Notices served (7)	Prosecutions (8)
Tents						
Sacks						
Racquet and tennis balls						
Paper bags						
The making of boxes or other receptacles or parts thereof made wholly or partially of paper.. .. .						
Brush making						
Pea picking						
Feather sorting						
Carding, etc., of buttons, etc.						
Stuffed toys						
Basket making						
Chocolate and sweetmeats						
Cosaques, Christmas crackers, Christmas stockings, etc.						
Textile weaving						
Lampshades						
TOTAL	5					

SECTION D

HOUSING

Number of new houses erected during the year :—

Traditional Type Brick Houses	14
One bedroom Bungalows	Nil

General details with regard to inspection of dwelling houses are submitted in the following tabular form :—

1. Inspection of Dwelling-houses during the Year

(i) (a)	Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under the Public Health or Housing Acts)	668
(b)	Number of inspections made for the purpose... ..	1,859
(ii) (a)	Number of dwelling-houses (included under sub-head (i) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925, and 1932	Nil
(b)	Number of inspections made for the purpose... ..	Nil
(iii)	Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	Nil
(iv)	Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	74

2. Remedy of Defects during the Year without Service of Formal Notices

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers	48
--	----

3. Action under Statutory Powers during the Year

- (a) Proceedings under Section 4 of the Housing Act, 1957 :—
- | | |
|--|-----|
| (i) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs | I |
| (ii) Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices :— | |
| (a) By owners | Nil |
| (b) By Local Authority in default of owners ... | Nil |
- (b) Proceedings under the Public Health Acts :—
- | | |
|--|-----|
| (i) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied ... | I |
| (ii) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices :— | |
| (a) By owners | I |
| (b) By Local Authority in default of owners ... | Nil |
- (c) Proceedings under Section 17 of the Housing Act, 1957 :—
- | | |
|--|-----|
| (i) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made | Nil |
| (ii) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders | 13 |
- (d) Proceedings under Section 18 of the Housing Act, 1957 :—
- | | |
|---|-----|
| (i) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made | I |
| (ii) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit | Nil |

4. Housing Act, 1957

During the year 1 complaint with regard to overcrowding was investigated by the Department.

5. Reconditioning of Houses

Forty-eight houses were rendered fit in consequence of informal action.

6. Housing Programme

The undermentioned table, supplied by the Corporation Housing Department, sets out details with regard to applications for housing accommodation and the number rehoused at 31st December, 1958.

1. APPLICATIONS

(a) Total number of applications on Housing Register as at 31st December, 1958	.. .. .	553
(b) Applications from non-residents	.. .. .	61
(c) Applicants working in Bexhill but living out of the Borough	.. .. .	15

2. RE-HOUSED

(a) Total number of families re-housed by the Committee since June, 1945	1,363
--	---------	-------

3. THE BUILDING PROGRAMME FOR 1958 is as follows:—

- (a) 50 Units of Aged Persons Accommodation.

7. Housing—Clearance Areas

The Glovers Lane and Ninfield Road No. 1 Areas were cleared during the year and the land so released is being developed by the Borough Council.

SECTION E

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

(a) Milk Supply

A total of 74 visits were made by Public Health Inspectors to dealers' premises and dairies during 1958.

REGISTRATIONS

The accompanying table gives details of the regulations effected and the licences issued during the year:

Food and Drugs Act, 1955	
Milk and Dairies Regulations, 1949	
Milk (Special Designations) (Raw Milk) Regulations, 1949-54	
and the	
Milk (Special Designations) (Pasteurised and Sterilised) Regulations	
1949-53	

FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1955—REGISTRATIONS

Certificate of Registration of Dairy	5
Certificate of Registration of Distributor	35

MILK (SPECIAL DESIGNATIONS) (PASTEURISED AND STERILISED) REGULATIONS, 1949-53—LICENCES:

Dealer's Licence authorising the use of the Special Designation "Sterilised"	1
Dealer's Licence authorising the use of the Special Designation "Pasteurised"	33
Dealer's Supplementary Licence in respect of Pasteurised Milk	4
Dealer's Supplementary Licence in respect of Sterilised Milk	1

MILK (SPECIAL DESIGNATIONS) (RAW MILK) REGULATIONS, 1949-54 LICENCES:

Dealer's Licence authorising the use of the Special Designation "Tuberculin Tested"	31
Dealer's Supplementary Licence authorising the use of the Special Designation "Tuberculin Tested"	4

Pasteurised Milk

During the year there was one pasteurising plant operating within the Borough and three sources of supply of milk were treated at plants outside the Borough. The remaining supplier obtains milk from the local pasteurising plants.

During the year 37 samples of this milk were taken. All were found to be satisfactory.

Tuberculin Tested Milk

There are 31 dealers in the Borough who supply graded milks under the Milk (Special Designations) Regulations.

(i) Tuberculin Tested (Pasteurised).

Forty-four samples of Tuberculin Tested Pasteurised Milk were obtained, one was found to be unsatisfactory.

(ii) Tuberculin Tested (Farm Bottled).

Fifty-six samples of this grade of milk were obtained of which five were found to be unsatisfactory.

The total number of samples of various grades of milk taken during the year was 137 as compared with 131 last year. Only six samples, or 4.3 per cent., were found to be unsatisfactory. A satisfactory position.

TABLE 8
MILK SAMPLES TAKEN

Pasteurised		Tuberculin Tested (Pasteurised)		Tuberculin Tested (Farm Bottled)	
Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory	Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory	Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory
37	—	43	1	51	5

(b) Food Hygiene

FOOD HYGIENE REGULATIONS, 1955

Number of Food Premises in the Area

Type:

Cafes	..	..	..	..	..	51
Butchers	..	..	..	..	..	20
Greengrocers	..	..	..	..	..	29
Dairies	..	..	..	..	..	4
Grocers	..	..	..	..	..	49
Wet Fish	..	..	..	..	..	8
Fried Fish	..	..	..	..	..	3
Bread and Confectionery	..	..	..	..	..	13
Miscellaneous, including sweets and ice-cream	..	..	..	..	..	43
Licensed Premises	..	..	..	..	..	23
Hotels and Guest Houses	..	..	..	..	..	103
Total	..	..	..	..	..	346
Total shops in Area	..	..	..	..	..	490

NUMBER OF FOOD PREMISES REGISTERED UNDER SECTION 16 OF THE FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1955

For the manufacture and sale of Sausages or
Potted Pickled or Preserved Food.. .. 21
For the manufacture and/or sale of ice-cream 144

The number of Notices served was 41 of which 12 had been
complied with by the end of the year.

TABLE 9
SUMMARY OF ACTION TAKEN WITH REGARD TO MEAT
AND OTHER FOODS

					lbs.	ozs.	Total Weight lbs. ozs.
Meat							
Bovine Kidneys	..	..	..	..	10	0	
Beef ..	..	..	..	..	146	12	
Ox Heart ..	..	..	..	..	22	0	
Ox Cheek ..	..	..	..	..	61	0	
Lamb ..	..	..	..	..	30	0	
Poultry ..	..	..	..	..	57	12	
Calves' Tongues	..	..	..	..	12	0	
Rabbit..	..	..	..	..	13	0	
							352 8
Tinned Meat							
Pork Luncheon Meat..	..	..	..	..	68	10	
Pork Tenderloin ..	..	..	..	..	3	8	
Corned Beef ..	..	..	..	..	54	7	
Casserole Steak ..	..	..	..	..	14	13½	
Chicken ..	..	..	..	..	19	6¾	
Calves' Tongues ..	..	..	..	..		8	
Lambs' Tongues ..	..	..	..	..	1	8	
Ox Tongue ..	..	..	..	..	2	0	
Minced Meat Loaf ..	..	..	..	..		12	
Beef Steak Pudding ..	..	..	..	..	1	0	
Jellied Veal ..	..	..	..	..	6	0	
							172 9¼
Miscellaneous							
Cereals ..	..	..	..	..	1	1½	
Puff Pastry ..	..	..	..	..	19	8	
Ryvita Crispbread ..	..	..	..	..		8	
Dried Fruit ..	..	..	..	..	6	0	
Cheese ..	..	..	..	..	7	13	
Frozen Foods (various)	..	..	..	..	39	12	
Lemon Juice ..	..	..	..	..	3	10	
Coffee ..	..	..	..	..		2	

Jelly	8	
Vinegar	2	8
Syrup	2	0
		83 6 $\frac{1}{2}$
Tinned Fish	13	0 $\frac{1}{2}$
Fresh Fish	98	0
		111 0 $\frac{1}{2}$
Miscellaneous Tinned Goods.. .. .	329	4 $\frac{1}{4}$
		329 4 $\frac{1}{4}$
Bacon and Ham—tinned and otherwise	107	11 $\frac{1}{8}$
		107 11 $\frac{1}{4}$
		1,156 7 $\frac{3}{4}$

Disposal

Animal Feeding and Manufacturing Purposes ..	1,156 7 $\frac{3}{4}$
--	-----------------------

TABLE 10

CARCASES AND OFFAL INSPECTED AND CONDEMNED IN WHOLE OR IN PART

	Cattle exclu- ding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs	Horses
Number killed (if known) ..	—	—	—	—	—	—
Number inspected	—	—	—	—	—	—
<i>All diseases except Tuberculosis and Cysticerci</i>						
Whole carcasses condemned ..	—	—	—	—	—	—
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned ..	—	—	—	—	—	—
Percentage of the number in- spected affected with disease other than tuberculosis and cysticerci	—	—	—	—	—	—
<i>Tuberculosis only:</i>						
Whole carcasses condemned ..	—	—	—	—	—	—
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned ..	—	—	—	—	—	—
Percentage of the number in- spected affected with tubercu- losis	—	—	—	—	—	—
<i>Cysticercosis:</i>						
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned ..	—	—	—	—	—	—
Carcases submitted to treat- ment by refrigeration ..	—	—	—	—	—	—
Generalised and totally con- demned	—	—	—	—	—	—

TABLE 11
FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1955

Adulteration

The East Sussex County Council is the Authority for the administration of this sub-section, and the following information has been received from that Authority:—

Articles	No. of Samples Taken		Genuine		Adulterated	
	Formal	Informal	Formal	Informal	Formal	Informal
Milk	10	86	4	82	6	4
Channel Island milk ..	—	9	—	9	—	—
Cake	—	3	—	3	—	—
Ice cream	—	3	—	3	—	—
Yoghurt	—	2	—	2	—	—
Cream	—	2	—	2	—	—
Sausage roll	—	2	—	2	—	—
Cheese food	—	2	—	2	—	—
Jelly	—	2	—	2	—	—
Vinegar	—	2	—	2	—	—
Pastes	—	2	—	2	—	—
Cream cheese	—	1	—	1	—	—
Cheese spread	—	1	—	1	—	—
Dripping	—	1	—	1	—	—
Marmite	—	1	—	1	—	—
Fish cakes	—	1	—	1	—	—
Soup	—	1	—	1	—	—
Gravy powder	—	1	—	1	—	—
Cornish pasties	—	1	—	1	—	—
Apricot curd	—	1	—	1	—	—
Pineapple segments ..	—	1	—	1	—	—
Chocolate spread	—	1	—	1	—	—
Almond flavouring	—	1	—	1	—	—
Horseradish relish	—	1	—	1	—	—
Glucose tablets	—	1	—	1	—	—
Ground nutmegs	—	1	—	1	—	—
Ground cinnamon	—	1	—	1	—	—
Arrowroot	—	1	—	1	—	—
Balsam of anniseed	—	1	—	1	—	—
Cough candies	—	1	—	1	—	—
Milk-flavoured sweets	—	1	—	1	—	—

The adulterated informal samples of milk were followed up by formal samples which also proved to contain added water. Proceedings were instituted against the dairy farmer concerned resulting in convictions and fines totalling £50 and £8 8s. od. costs.

Ice Cream

ICE CREAM (HEAT TREATMENT) REGULATIONS, 1947-52

One hundred and twenty samples were submitted for examination with the following results:—

Grade 1, 91; Grade 2, 22; Grade 3, 3; Grade 4, 4.

In assessing the hygienic quality of ice cream it is generally accepted that the product should attain either Grade 1 or 2.

The results show that of the samples taken during the year 1958, 94.16 per cent. satisfied the requirements of Grades 1 and 2.

Five samples of ice cream were taken in order to ascertain the quality of the product, which is based on a Fat Content Standard of 5 per cent. All samples were found to be satisfactory.

Strict supervision is given to premises where ice cream is handled; and this is increasingly reflected in the constantly rising standard of samples.

Number of manufacturing premises: 2.

Number of registered retail premises: 144.

SECTION F

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES

The table below summarises the notifications for the year together with the Hospital admissions.

There were no deaths and the Hospital admissions all recovered completely.

TABLE 12

Diseases	Notifications received	Cases admitted to Isolation Hospital	Deaths
Diphtheria ..	—	—	—
Whooping Cough	15	—	—
Measles	156	4	—
Scarlet Fever ..	4	—	—
Pneumonia ..	9	1	—
Ac. Poliomyelitis	—	—	—
Erysipelas ..	1	—	—
Puerperal Pyrexia	2	—	—
Totals ..	187	5	—

Vaccination

Nine public sessions of Vaccination were held during the year on the second Wednesday in the month at the East Sussex County Clinic, London Road, at 2.30 p.m. The following table gives particulars of the number vaccinated and revaccinated at the Clinic and by General Practitioners.

TABLE 13

**NUMBER OF PERSONS VACCINATED (or re-vaccinated) DURING
YEAR 1958**

Age at date of Vaccination	Under 1	1	2 to 4	5 to 14	15 or over	Total
Number Vaccinated	208 (80%)	17	7	11	21	264
Number Re-Vaccinated	—	—	4	42	202	248

**NUMBER OF CASES SPECIALLY REPORTED DURING PERIOD (age
groups as above)**

(a) Generalised Vaccinia	—	—	—	—	—	—
(b) Post-vaccinal Encephalo- myelitis	—	—	—	—	—	—
(c) Death from complications of vaccination other than (a) and (b)	—	—	—	—	—	—

Diphtheria Immunisation,**Diphtheria/Pertussis Immunisation,****Diphtheria/Pertussis/Tetanus Immunisation**

Seventeen sessions for inoculation were held during the year and particulars of the numbers dealt with and including those dealt with by private practitioners, are shown in the following table.

TABLE 14

	Under 1 year	1-4 years	5-14 years
Number of children who completed the full course during year:			
Diph.	1	—	36
Diph./Pert.	3	—	—
Diph./Pert./Tetanus	202	24	1
Total	206	24	37
Number of children who received reinforcing injections against Diphtheria during the year	—	10	302
Percentage of child population who have completed a course of immunisation at any time before 31st December, 1958 (estimated)	79%	80%	96%
Percentage of child population who have received reinforcing doses within the last five years (estimated)	—	—	65%

The inoculation state of the infant and child population continues to be highly satisfactory; a percentage of 80 per cent. vaccinated under 1 year is more than twice that for England and Wales, and speaks volumes for the educational work of the Health Visitors and Family Doctors.

The diphtheria immunisation figures for those of 5 and over remain at 96 per cent., while the figure for reinforcing doses is 65 per cent. Satisfactory no doubt, but not good enough, a drop from 70 per cent. in 1957 (1956 figure, 64 per cent.). Diphtheria could rear its ugly head again unless full advantage is taken of the facilities readily available through the family doctor or the Local Authority.

During 1959, the East Sussex County Council will take over the administration of this service, and all records will be held at Lewes. This applies to all County Districts in East Sussex, and, while it will cause no difficulties in the area adjacent to the Central Authority at Lewes, other areas further away, e.g. Bexhill, Battle and Rye, feel apprehensive of possible delays in obtaining information for parents, family doctors, etc., of the immunisation state of their children and patients respectively. Central control, in the long run, can be more expensive although apparent savings may justify changes at first.

TABLE 15
WHOOPIING COUGH CASES NOTIFIED DURING 1948-1958

	1948	1949	1950	1951	1952	1953	1954	1955	1956	1957	1958
Under 1 year	14	—	—	11	2	7	2	—	5	2	1
1 year	34	7	5	17	4	46	19	2	2	3	2
2 years									6	4	2
3 years	42	9	13	24	6	65	36	4	8	8	3
4 years									11	2	1
5-9 years	59	14	21	41	8	96	41	8	46	4	6
10-14 years	12	1	1	11	—	10	2	—	3	1	—
15-24 years	1	—	—	3	—	1	1	—	—	—	—
25 and over	8	—	—	3	1	4	2	1	1	1	—
Total	170	31	40	110	21	229	103	15	82	25	15

No acute poliomyelitis vaccination figures are yet available, as these records are held by the East Sussex County Council, which is the Local Health Authority.

Cancer

The number of deaths certified as being due to cancer was 109 (47 males and 62 females) as compared with 94 (43 males and 51 females) in 1957. See vital statistics, Table 1, (Causes of Death). Lung cancer cases were 18 as against 17 in 1957.

Pertussis

Table 15 indicates that there was a further drop in the number of pertussis cases notified during the year, as against 1956 and 1957, proving again the efficiency of immunisation during infancy. The severity of the disease is also less marked, and in many cases so mild is the condition that diagnosis is difficult if not impossible. This proves that prevention is better than cure.

Tuberculosis

TABLE 16

Age Periods	New Cases				Deaths			
	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
0—5	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
5—15	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
15—25	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
25—35	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—
35—45	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
45—55	2	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
55—65	1	1	—	—	—	1	—	—
Over 65	2	2	—	—	—	—	—	—
Totals	6	6	1	—	1	1	—	—

The number of cases of Tuberculosis on the Register at the end of 1958, was as follows:

	Male	Female	Total
Pulmonary	69	53	115
Non-Pulmonary	7	3	10
	—	—	—
	67	56	125
	—	—	—

It will be seen that there has been an increase of seven cases over the 1957 figure, i.e. 125 as against 118.

There were 13 new notifications, and investigation of these shows that:—

- 5 were males over 50 years of age.
- 3 were females over 50 years of age.
- 1 was a male in the 36-45 years' group.
- 3 were females in the 25-45 years' group.
- 1 was a child, non-pulmonary.

This is in keeping with the figures for England and Wales generally in that improved methods of investigations are gradually bringing to light the cases in the higher age groups which have hitherto not been diagnosed. These are usually chronic cases and require observation for a much longer period before the diagnosis is established. In addition the majority have only recently come to reside in the area.

In addition there were seven inward transfers, making 20 cases in all. Against these there were seven deaths, while six cases left the area, making a total of 13 off the register, which gives a net increase of seven for the year.

Report of the Chief Public Health Inspector

MR. MAYOR, ALDERMEN AND COUNCILLORS,

I have pleasure in submitting on behalf of the Chief Public Health Inspector his Report for 1958.

The year under review was marred latterly by the sudden illness of Mr. W. H. Ball and his ill-health was a matter of considerable concern to the Department.

The duties of a Public Health Inspector are of a wearing and exacting nature and recent legislation has added to his burden.

The work of the Department has gone steadily forward on all fronts.

General Observations

FOOD

Work under the Food Hygiene Regulations has proceeded smoothly and it is pleasant to recall that when after considerable argument extra sinks are installed the proprietors have confessed that they have found them a considerable improvement.

HOUSING

Under the heading of Housing, the Council's Slum Clearance Programme is proceeding and the systematic inspection of houses has been put in hand—93 houses were inspected. Certain areas in the district are being dealt with under this heading.

CESSPOOLS

The construction of secondary sewers in the Pebsham area has enabled a considerable number of properties to be connected and this, together with the provision of a constant water supply to these houses, indicates that before long this part of the Borough will take its rightful place as a considerable suburb.

HOUSE DRAINAGE

A close watch was kept on all drainage repairs and the high standards for which Bexhill is noted were maintained.

CLEAN AIR

SMOKE ABATEMENT

The constant efforts of the engineer to the Glyne Gap Gas Works together with those of H.M. Alkali Inspectors and ourselves has resulted in further improvement.

The oil-burning plant mentioned in last year's Report is to be replaced by a more modern installation.

FOOD HYGIENE REGULATIONS

FOOD INSPECTION—MILK—ICE CREAM

MILK

A total of 137 samples were taken and submitted for examination of which six samples failed the laboratory test. Of these, five were tuberculin-tested (farm bottled) milk. This indicates a need for close supervision of the farms. Generally, the position can be regarded as satisfactory.

ICE CREAM

A total of 120 samples were taken and submitted for examination of which 113 (Grade 1—91; Grade 2—22) or 94.16 per cent. satisfied the requirements of the methylene blue test.

FOOD HYGIENE

The inspection of food premises, shops, cafes, hotels and guest houses proceeded throughout the year.

No. of premises inspected	..	..	..	214
No. of Notices served	..	..	..	41
No. of Notices complied with	..	..	..	12

Details of items remedied are appended below.

TABLE 17

Cleanse and colour wash walls and ceilings	..	..	..	..	24
Cleanse and repaint walls and ceilings	..	..	..	..	11
Cleanse walls and ceilings and repair	..	..	..	..	2
Provide and fix new wash hand basin, etc.	..	..	..	..	32
Provide accommodation for storage of clothing	..	..	..	..	2
Notice requiring wash of hands	..	..	..	..	68
Provide shades for electric light	..	..	..	..	4
Provide soap, towels, nail brushes	..	..	..	..	15
Provide first-aid box, etc.	..	..	..	..	27
Defective wall plaster	..	..	..	..	9
Notice re smoking/spitting	..	..	..	..	13
Provide new sink	..	..	..	..	20
Renew existing sink	..	..	..	..	6
Provide hoods to gas cookers	..	..	..	..	3
Provide hot water	..	..	..	..	10
Provide new W.C.	..	..	..	..	1

W.C. opens direct into food room	5
Walls to be provided with smooth, non-absorbent surface ..	1
Repair roof	1
Dirty window and cills	1
Defective windows	1
Defective ceiling plaster	4
Dirty floor	3
Repair floor	7
Assistants' outdoor clothing in food rooms	5
Accumulation of rubbish	1
Provide non-absorbent floor covering	3
No lighting, artificial or natural	1
Provide new draining board and surround	1
Provision of refuse bin	4
Provide trap to waste pipe	1
Renew defective surround to drain inlet gully	1
Provision of cold storage	7
Provide non-absorbent top to table	1
Installation of mechanical ventilation	4
Repair defective yard paving	4
Miscellaneous	23
Total	326

PUBLIC CONVENIENCES

Summary of Accommodation:

Marina	Male and Female
East Parade	Male and Female
West Parade	Male and Female
Colonnade	Male and Female
Egerton Park (Museum)	Male and Female
Cooden Beach	Male and Female
Sidley	Male and Female
Devonshire Square	Male and Female
Little Common	Male and Female
Little Common Recreation Ground	Male and Female
Buckhurst Place	Female only
Sackville Arch	Male only
Downs Arch	Male only (urinal)

The supervision of the Borough's conveniences causes considerable work to the Department and I must regretfully record that malicious damage continues to be reported.

New conveniences are being erected at Glyne Gap and Downs Arch and are expected to be in use during 1959.

MOVEABLE DWELLINGS

CARAVANS—TENTS

The licensed sites continued to be operated satisfactorily.

The provision of storage tanks at a large site at Normans Bay were found to be a great help in reducing demands on the standpipes.

The general problem of sewage disposal and water supply to Normans Bay has again received the attention of the Council and its officers.

The accompanying tables set out the nature and scope of the work carried out by the Department during the course of the year:

TABLE 18

Housing inspection, P.H.A.	...	...	...	...	...	575
Visits re above	...	...	...	...	...	1,605
Housing inspection, H.A.	...	...	...	...	...	93
Visits re above	...	...	...	...	...	254
Housing Survey	...	...	...	...	...	27
Housing Repairs and Rents Act, 1954	...	...	...	...	...	31
Overcrowding	...	...	...	...	...	3
Water supply	...	...	...	...	...	1
Water Samples procured :						
Main Supply	...	...	...	...	...	13
Swimming Bath	...	...	...	...	...	9
Smoke abatement	...	...	...	...	...	48
Smoke Observations	...	...	...	...	...	3
Schools	...	...	...	...	...	3
Moveable dwellings	...	...	...	...	...	61
Rag and bone dealers	...	...	...	...	...	1
Stables and/or piggeries	...	...	...	...	...	23
Poultry/Rabbit keeping	...	...	...	...	...	6
Factories—mechanical power	...	...	...	...	...	118
Factories—non mechanical power	...	...	...	...	...	55
Workplaces—general	...	...	...	...	...	3
Outworkers	...	...	...	...	...	9
Shops Acts, 1950	...	...	...	...	...	411
Public conveniences	...	...	...	...	...	306
Theatres, cinemas, etc.	...	...	...	...	...	13
Drainage—general	...	...	...	...	...	651
Drainage—testing by :						
(a) Smoke	...	...	...	...	...	76
(b) Water	...	...	...	...	...	106

(c) Colour	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	8
Cesspools	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	253
Other sanitary visits	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	222
Dustbins/Ashes receptacles	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	307
Works in progress	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	77
Interviews	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	152
Cowsheds	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
Pet Animals Act, 1951	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	7
Heat Appl. (Fireguards)	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	52
Miscellaneous—General Sanitation	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	206
Butchers' shops	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	82
Fried fish shops	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	27
Fishmongers and poulterers	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	25
Greengrocers and fruiterers	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	89
Grocers	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	228
Bakehouses	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	17
Licensed premises	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	21
Dairies and milkshops	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	74
Ice cream premises	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	38
Ice cream sampling	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	130
Milk sampling—Methylene Blue	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	147
Food preparing premises	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	214
Cafes	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	137
Other food visits	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	188
Infectious Disease and disinfection	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	102
Disinfestation, general	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	70
Disinfestation, bugs, fleas etc.	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	60
Rats and mice	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	445
								<hr/> 7,886 <hr/>

COMPLAINTS

1952	..	..	..	..	..	..	830
1953	..	..	..	..	..	..	804
1954	..	..	..	..	..	..	818
1955	..	..	..	..	..	..	758
1956	..	..	..	..	..	..	720
1957	..	..	..	..	..	..	707
1958	..	..	..	..	..	..	708

TABLE 19
Complaints 1958

Conditions of premises	7
Beetles, Ants, etc.	40
Dampness	39
Stoving and/or Disinfection of rooms	40
Drainage and Sanitary Fittings	41
Accumulation of refuse	19
Food	32
Flooding	14
Housing Defects	33
Smoke Nuisance	6
Overcrowding	1
Verminous premises	14
Cesspools and septic tanks	6
Absence of or defective dustbins	5
Overgrown land	12
Keeping of animals	14
Food Premises	1
Milk and Dairies	2
Bad smells	24
Miscellaneous	29
Rats and Mice	329
Total	708

SANITARY DEFECTS AND NOTICES

TABLE 20

Statutory Notices served during 1958	5
Statutory Notices complied with during 1958	4
Statutory Notices outstanding at 31st December, 1958	1
Informal Notices served during 1958	382
Informal Notices complied with during 1958	319
Informal Notices outstanding at 31st December, 1958	63

HOUSE INSPECTION AND SANITARY IMPROVEMENTS

Forty-eight houses were rendered fit as a result of informal action. The following tables show the sanitary improvements effected during the year:—

TABLE 21

Drains repaired	20
Inspection chambers reconstructed.. .. .	1
Soil pipes or vents renewed	4
Choked drains.. .. .	32
New frames and covers to existing chambers	6
Defective waste pipes	9
Defective channels	9
Cesspools emptied	9
Defective or overflowing cesspool	2
Septic tanks repaired.. .. .	1
Defective W.C. pans	9
Defective W.C. seat	7
Defective W.C. flushing cistern	10
Defective W.C. pedestal	1
Insanitary and defective sinks	3
Defective bath	1
Defective plaster to walls	76
Defective plaster to ceilings.. .. .	28
Defective boarded ceiling	3
Defective external walls	31
Dampness of walls	55
Dampness of ceilings	3
Dampness general	28
Dampness of chimney breast	2
Defective air bricks	3
Walls require cleansing	12
Ceilings require cleansing	13
Defective fireplaces and grates	19
Defective kitchen ranges	3
Defective chimney flues	7
Defective fresh-air inlets	2
Defective pointing	10
Defective cement rendering	13
Defective skirting boards	3
Defective doors and cupboards	11

Absence of ventilated food stores	15
Defective stair treads	4
Absence of or defective stair handrail	3
Defective sashes and frames.. .. .	95
Defective and dangerous chimney stacks	10
Defective chimney pots	2
Defective roofs	56
Defective yard paving	13
Defective water-supply pipes	2
Dustbins provided	172
Keeping of animals	2
Accumulation of refuse/manure	7
Dirty floors	3
Defective rain-water pipes	31
Choked rain-water pipe	1
Defective eaves gutters	44
Defective floors	31
Defective cills	8
Absence of intervening space	2
Absence of closet accommodation	7
Defective staircase	1
No permanent ventilation to food store	10
Defective fencing	1
Defective hot-water boilers	2
Miscellaneous	49
 Total	 <u>1,017</u>

TABLE 22
ARTICLES DISINFECTED OR DESTROYED

Article	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Total
Wearing													
Apparel ..	1	—	5	—	—	—	—	—	—	39	—	—	45
Uniform C'ing	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Bed Covers	—	—	2	—	1	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	5
Mattresses ..	1	1	5	1	1	4	6	3	—	1	3	4	30
Feather Beds	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Eiderdowns	—	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	4
Bolsters	—	—	1	—	1	—	1	1	—	1	—	—	5
Pillows ..	4	—	7	—	5	—	1	8	—	14	2	23	64
Blankets ..	7	—	4	—	1	—	3	—	—	4	—	4	23
Sheets ..	—	—	7	—	1	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	10
Miscellaneous	4	—	5	—	—	—	—	—	25	5	—	—	39
Totals ..	17	1	37	1	11	4	11	12	25	69	6	31	225

TABLE 23
ROOMS FUMIGATED

	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apl.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Total
Scarlet Fever	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Diphtheria ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Cancer ..	2	1	—	—	1	—	1	—	2	1	—	1	9
Erysipelas ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Meningitis ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Acute	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Poliomyelitis	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Tuberculosis	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	1	—	2	1	7
Chicken Pox	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Measles ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Vermis ..	—	—	5	9	—	6	9	3	15	7	—	—	54
Miscellaneous	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	2
Totals ..	3	1	5	9	1	6	10	5	18	8	4	2	72

FACTORIES ACT, 1937

During the year 176 visits were paid to factories, workshops and workplaces, 12 notices being served. Eleven of the notices had been complied with at the end of the year.

The following details are of the items in the notices served.

Factories Act, 1937

SECTION I:

Premises requiring cleaning	..	..	..	..	1
Accumulation of rubbish in yard	..	..	..	..	1

SECTION 7:

Dirty walls and ceiling	..	..	..	..	..	2
Dirty floor	..	..	..	..	..	3
Compartment requires colour washing	..	..	..	..	..	1
Pedestal foul	..	..	..	..	..	3
Defective ring seat to pedestal	..	..	..	..	..	1
Absence of closet accommodation on building site	..	..	..	..	..	6
Insufficient sanitary conveniences in factory	..	..	..	..	..	1

DISINFECTION AND INFECTIOUS DISEASE

Steam disinfection of bedding, clothing and other articles is carried out at the Disinfection Station, St. Mary's Lane, Bexhill.

No. of rooms disinfected	..	..	..	72
No. of articles disinfected or destroyed	..	..	..	225
No. of visits paid	..	..	..	102

RODENT CONTROL

Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949

The Borough Council decided after receiving an Organisation and Methods Report that the services of the Rodent Operator should be terminated, and he accordingly left in November. This work has devolved on to the General Assistant, Mr. G. Chalmers, and he has tackled the extra work cheerfully and competently.

A total of 329 complaints were received and 2,398 visits were made to premises and land.

<i>No. of complaints</i>	<i>Rats</i>	<i>Mice</i>	<i>Total</i>
1958	198	131	329
1957	211	131	342
1956	191	135	326
1955	192	105	287
1954	238	117	355

*Total number of
visits paid*

1958	2,398
1957	2,773
1956	2,849
1955	3,085
1954	2,802

Farm Premises

Fourteen visits of survey were made by the Rodent Officer. There are 28 premises within the Borough which are classed as Agricultural.

INFESTATIONS:

9 premises treated by the occupier.

4 premises treated by the Council's Rodent Officer.

Sewers

Following negative results in 1957 the Ministry of Agriculture has exempted the Borough from further tests until 1960.

St. Mary's Lane Refuse Tip

The life of this tip appears to be drawing to a close and the larger part of the Borough's refuse was deposited at the Hastings tip.

Twenty-seven visits were made for the purposes of rodent treatment. Two major and three minor infestations were found and treated.

CONCLUSION

The year has been noticeable for staff changes due to the Organisation and Methods Report.

Mr. H. J. Stentiford, Public Health Inspectors' Clerk, was transferred after seven years in the Public Health Department to the Borough Treasurer's Department. Mr. Stentiford was an extremely competent and methodical colleague and the Department's records have never been better kept.

Mr. Evenden, the Rodent Operator, who also left the Department, carried out his duties admirably.

The good wishes of the staff go with both of them.

Mr. S. Wild again gave valuable assistance to the Department.

Mr. K. Westwood, the Chief Clerk, and Miss McEvoy, the Public Health Inspector's Clerk, both helped immeasurably in the difficult period at the end of the year.

The Medical Officer of Health, Dr. R. J. Toleman, has as always been ready with advice and encouragement to both Mr. Ball and myself.

The close support and co-operation of the Chairman and members of the Public Health Committee have been of inestimable value in carrying out the multifarious duties of a Public Health Inspector.

CLEMENT E. LOCKLEY,
Public Health Inspector.

